

Fredericksburg Arts Commission Meeting

**Thursday, March 4th, 2010
City Hall Conference Room**

Attendees: Julie Perry, Roy Jarnecke, Rochelle Gray, Florence Ridderhof, Debby Klein, George Solley, and Kathleen Walsh.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from January and February meetings were presented and voted upon. Debby Klein motioned to approve the January minutes as submitted and Florence Ridderhof seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The minutes for the February meeting were reviewed and Kathleen Walsh had a question about the wording for the balance on the treasurer's report. Julie Perry clarified the wording as being from the treasurer Peter Scelfo's original report. Florence Ridderhof then moved to accept the minutes as submitted and Debby Klein seconded the motion. It also passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There were two members of the public in attendance - Carolyn Van der Jagt and Harvey Gold representing the Arts Council of the Rappahannock.

Reports

Arts Festival Committee – Kevin Bartram

Roy Jarnecke reported for Kevin Bartram and the Festival Committee. Mr. Jarnecke reported that the visit from Via Colori founder Rick Compton was a success and that the group should expect to see a call for artists and sponsors as well as an updated website in the weeks to come. Kathleen Walsh asked that she be included on the press release lists so that she could stay informed and pass the word along where appropriate.

Public Arts – Pat Thalman

Pat Thalman reported that the EDA grant request had been submitted and that it was being reviewed. They hoped to have word and be able to move the project forward soon.

Website Committee – Debby Klein

Debby Klein reported that the website committee had met and become to formulate the needs and desires of a Commission website. The Committee members – Debby Klein, Kathleen Walsh, Julie Perry, Rochelle Gray, and Pat Thalman are all researching comparable sites to gather this list or criteria. Florence Ridderhof asked Debby Klein how long she projected it would be until the Commission had its own site. When Debby Klein informed the group that the committee was not far enough along to be able to accurately predict a timeline Florence Ridderhof clarified that she was asking because of problems with the calendar function on the Arts Council of the Rappahannock's site. Debby Klein

said she would check on that and Kathleen Walsh concurred that we should be careful who we are recommending if the product isn't good or easily accessible. Chairman Jarnecke asked Carolyn Van Der Jagt to speak to this issue and she clarified that the calendar is still under development.

Long Term Planning Committee – No report this month

Old Business

Arts and Culture District – George Solley

George Solley reported that he would have a more formal report at the April meeting and that it was his goal to get this initiative in front of council as soon as possible.

Government Challenge Grant Applications for 2010-2011 – Julie Perry

Before this discussion began Roy Jarnecke wanted to point out for the record that there were a number of Arts Commission members that had a conflict of interest in this discussion. However, without those members participating in the discussion/vote there would not be a quorum. Therefore, it was requested that the discussion center around determining the qualifications independent of individual applications and then applying them.

Julie Perry passed out the copies of the applications. Roy Jarnecke then informed the Fredericksburg Arts Commission members that the state requirements for participation in this program were that the group be a certified non-profit and have arts related programming. It was immediately agreed that all 5 applicants meet those qualifications.

Much discussion followed pertaining to geographic boundaries and what constitutes art activity in the City of Fredericksburg. Some members suggested a percentage quota be used to determine which groups would qualify. It was also brought up that limited performance space in the City of Fredericksburg should be taken into consideration as many groups wish they could perform/rehearse in the city more but are limited by the City's arts resources. Others suggested a less literal approach to the geographic boundaries and all members discussed and were concerned about implications of these decisions to the limited budgets of the various groups represented. Eventually, George Solley suggested that the less literal approach be implemented this year and a committee be formed to evaluate these guidelines for the future. This was readily accepted by the Commission and led to Mr. Solley moving to accept the 5 applications for the 2010-2011 Government Challenge Grant. This motion passed unanimously.

2010-2011 Government Challenge Grant Recipients:

Rappahannock Pops Orchestra
Chamber Chorale of Fredericksburg
Stage Door Productions
Stafford Regional Choral Society
Fredericksburg Festival of the Arts

It was then agreed that Julie Perry would write a congratulations letter to each selected group and inform them of their selection, the fact that the award is unknown at this time and that the commission is forming a sub-committee to study these procedures for the future and that geographic boundaries and individual organization's contribution to the City of Fredericksburg would be important in the coming years.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 1st, 2010 at 7pm in the City Hall Conference Room.

Adjournment

Rochelle Gray moved to adjourn, Debby Klein seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.